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Thursday, 05 March 2009, 13:21
S E C R E T ASMARA 000080
DEPARTMENT FOR AF/EX AND AF/E
EO 12958 DECL: 03/04/2019
TAGS PGOV, PREL, ECON, PINR, ER
SUBJECT: IS ERITREA UNRAVELING?
REF: ADDIS ABABA 567
Classified By: Ambassador Ronald K. McMullen for reason 1.4(d)

1. (S) Summary: Young Eritreans are fleeing their country in droves, the economy appears to be in a death spiral, Eritrea's prisons are overfl

2. (S) The Regime's Political Capital is Tanking

Isaias' popularity stemmed from his leading role in Eritrea's Davidic victory in the thirty-year struggle for independence. Immediately after

3. (S) The War Economy is Failing

Hagos Ghebrehiwet, as the Economic Director of the Peoples Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ), is the architect of the regime's failed econ

4. (C) Gold To the Rescue? No

Many Eritrean businessmen and officials hope, and opposition members fear, that come 2010, gold mining will provide the economic fillip needed

5. (C) No American Enemy to Blame

Prior to January 20 every bad thing in Eritrea was touted as proof of an American-led conspiracy against Eritrea. Daily anti-American diatribes

6. (C) Tough, Proud, and Suffering

Around 80% of Eritreans live on farms or in small villages. Many are only marginally involved in the monetized economy and produce part of what

7. (S) Where Will Change Come From?

In hushed tones, Asmarinos are discussing reports of wholesale changes in the cabinet and other senior civilian positions. From what we underst
MCMULLEN